

# 1999 Operations Plan



## Memorandum

Date: November 5, 1998

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

*Reviewed  
for LAS*

Subject: 1999 CVP/SWP Operations Plan

### Summary

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources are consulting, along with involvement by the CALFED Ops Group, on the 1999 Operations Plan. Completion of the Operations Plan by early December 1998 is listed as one of the 1998-99 Actions identified by CALFED as important for showing continued progress.

### Action

- Information/ Item — USBR and DWR staff will provide an update on the status of the 1999 Operations Plan.

### Detailed Discussion

Last year, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) issued its *Final Administrative Proposal on Management of Section 3406(b)(2) Water* (Proposal). The Proposal identifies a set of environmental actions, which include eight specific actions for the Delta listed in the Anadromous Fish Restoration Plan (AFRP), that DOI intends to implement in each of the next five years. It also discusses a set of tools that could reduce potential impacts to California water users that could result from those actions. In April of this year, DWR proposed and USBR agreed to an annual process that:

1. Assesses the risk to water supplies of implementing the Delta actions; and
2. Develops a specific plan to recover any impacts to water supplies that exceed the authority of section 3406 (b)(2) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

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#### CALFED Agencies

**California**  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board

**Federal**  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

Expected Impacts from Delta AFRP Actions. In August, DWR and USBR began a risk assessment of implementing the eight Delta actions and have concluded that only a small risk to water supplies exists if the 1999 water year is either very dry or very wet. However, under "normal" hydrologic conditions, the Central Valley and State Water Projects could lose about 140 taf (see attachment). This water supply impact is associated most acutely with only one of the eight Delta actions; the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP). Analysis of San Joaquin River operations shows releases of water during the April 15 through May 15 pulse period (a time when the water cannot be exported) from upstream reservoirs that would have been held and released during the summer and early fall (a time when the water can be exported). This "reoperation" of San Joaquin tributary reservoirs will result in higher CVP and SWP releases from the Sacramento River system later in the year.

Recovery of the 140 taf. DWR has indicated that a plan to protect against these potential impacts must be agreed to before implementation of the first Delta action in December. DWR and USBR staffs are currently evaluating ways to recover the 140 taf of water that could potentially be lost to the projects as a result of the VAMP. Several alternatives exist; DOI could purchase water from upstream sources to increase instream flows, purchase water from south of the Delta sources to reduce export demands, secure space south of the Delta to store surplus water, or pursue relaxation of water quality standards in the Delta to reduce Delta outflow requirements.

Currently, USBR is working with water agency representatives to develop a plan that addresses potential impacts that could result from implementation of the VAMP. USBR is considering acquiring additional water from upstream sources and storage space south of Delta in quantities sufficient to enable the SWP to participate in implementing the eight Delta actions. The on-going discussions have centered on purchasing options on water supplies and storage space as the most cost effective way to meet any potential impacts from implementation of the eight Delta actions. At this time USBR expects to have the plan developed by the beginning of December and formalized before the end of the year.

Attachment